

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes

October 5, 2007

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, October 5, 2007 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, Vicki L. Carmichael, Richard A. Dailey; Roger L. Duvall, James D. Humphrey, Lynn Murray, and Charles F. Pratt, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz, James Diller, Nancy Gettinger and Anne Jordan provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on May 4, 2007 and June 21, 2007 were approved as amended.
4. CIP report. Nancy Gettinger, CIP Coordinator gave the following report of the Court Improvement Project activities.
 - a. Indiana received CIP grant monies in the areas of the original grant, training, and data collection.
 - b. As a condition for continued receipt of grant monies, Indiana must conduct an assessment of how Indiana's judges comply with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. She distributed an article about the ICPC, which gave sample questions for interviews and assessments as a guide to Indiana's assessment. Committee members mentioned the use of telephone conferences and depositions to get information in this area.
 - c. Indiana's Summit on Children will be held on December 14, 2007. Justice Maura Corrigan, Wisconsin Supreme Court will give the keynote presentation.
5. Report on Commission on State Tax
 - a. Judge Pratt gave an overview of his and Judge Murray's testimony at the Commission on State Tax and Fiscal Policy on October 1, 2007. This included no separation of CHINS and Delinquency funding and continued independence of the judiciary in making decisions. He described the testimony of James Payne, Director, Department of Child Services, which, in response to a question, discussed an oversight role for courts to determine the reasonableness of services to children. The commission members discussed the state payment of children's services. Judge Murray reported this commission would recommend a shift of funding of juvenile services in some manner to the state.
 - b. Members of the Committee discussed placement costs. James Diller, Division of State Court Administration, discussed cost information their office collects from courts on juveniles. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Jim Diller agreed to bring back proposed revisions for the collection of better data in the Juvenile Law Services Report.
6. Forms

Jeffrey Bercovitz distributed a form used by Judge Pratt for required ASFA findings. Anne Jordan reported she was working to collect QUEST form. Committee members agreed by consensus to have the Juvenile Benchbook Committee work with DCS on preparing orders that could be jointly agreed to by DCS and that Committee. Once completed, the Juvenile Justice

Improvement Committee would work hard to encourage their use by courts. Judge Aylsworth wanted the order forms to permit space for other conditions.

7. Next meeting dates. Committee members agreed to meet again on the following dates: November 2, 2007, January 4, 2008, February 1, 2008, March 7, 2008, May 2, 2008, June 6, 2008, October 3, 2008 and November 7, 2008, all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Services